In Defence of China

The war that now rages in the Far East is not a conflict between two imperialist powers. In so simple a word, can one speak of China as an imperialist country with war-like aims against Japan?

China is a backward country, which has not yet developed its own industrial capacity, which has not yet evolved to the point where it feels compelled to seek foreign markets and spheres of influence for capital investment. The present war has been carried on by Chinese imperialism. And, for that reason, the resistance given to the Japanese aggression by China is, from the Chinese viewpoint, a war against imperialism. Next to say, a republic of the Japanese forces by China would not end imperialist exploitation in that country. There would still be the hold of French and British and American capital.

So closely is the role of the Chinese workers classes intertwined with the interests of foreign capital that it will be virtually impossible for the Chinese masses, if they use themselves from foreign proletarian oppression will be simultaneously bringing about the defeat of the Chinese ruling class. Because this is so, Soviet Socialists would like to see China develop its own independent forces of the workers—unions, peasant's organizations, workers' political parties. This would strengthen China's resistance to the war against Japan, and thus lead to the downfall of the Japanese aggression. But shall move on to this direction, the trade unionists and employers in China.

Whether or not there is such a revolutionary movement in China, however, does not essentially change the fact that there is now being waged a struggle against Japanese imperialism.

In such a struggle, Socialists are not neutral. Socialists are anti-imperialist. This anti-imperialism is not limited to the utterance of pious phrases against international anti-imperialist exploitation by finance capital. Socialist anti-imperialicism also necessitates an active—offensive military—struggle against imperialism, such as is now taking place in China. Socialists, therefore, call upon the workers to throw their strength to the side of China in the present struggle.

Such a stand is demanded of America as well. The American government, agent of American imperialism, has in the past participated in subjugating China. It will act, not for reasons of "pity" or "peace", but to safeguard capitalist interests in the Far East. And for that, and that alone, it is ready to embark on a war with Japan or any other commercial competitor. That is the reason American warships and soldiers have been and now are stationed in China.

Defend CHINA!

Because of the reasons stated in the editorial reproduced here from THE SOCIALIST CALL, the Young People's Socialist League calls upon the workers and students of New York to

BOYCOTT JAPANESE GOODS

Let this boycott be the answer of the American people to the imperialistic aims of Japan. Let this form of workers' sanctions stop the Japanese war makers in their attempt further to divide and rule China.

The boycott hits the Japanese imperialists where it hurts most— their pocketbooks. It is within your power to apply the most effective type of pressure—the economic boycott.

Only workers' action will effectively aid China. The American government, agent of American imperialism, has in the past participated in subjugating China. It will act, not for reasons of "pity" or "peace", but to safeguard capitalist interests in the Far East. And for that, and that alone, it is ready to embark upon a war with Japan or any other commercial competitor. That is the reason American warships and soldiers have been and now are stationed in China.

What you can do:

We suggest the following, to make the boycott most effective:

1. Before buying any toy, novelty, notion, or item, look for the label, "MADE IN JAPAN". If you find such items, tell the salesperson why you refuse to buy them.

2. Urge your local stores to halt all purchases of Japanese goods.

3. Since most of our silk comes from Japan, find substitutes for silk dresses, stockings, slips, etc.

4. Have your organization or trade union support this boycott.

5. Join our picket lines to enforce the boycott.

6. Demand the withdrawal from China of American warships and soldiers.

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